

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 4 and 5 are pending in the present application. Claims 4 and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Prosenbauer (U.S. Pat. No. 4,286,510). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claims 4 and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Prosenbauer. Independent claim 4 requires in part "a plurality of fluid reservoirs in fluid flow communication with the heads and the needles therein." The Prosenbauer does not teach this arrangement. Instead, Prosenbauer teaches two storage containers 20, the first of which is only connected fluidly to a single pressurized container 26 via pump 24. (Col. 4, lines 52-59). The first storage container 20 does not have a second outlet fluidly connected to the second pressurized container on an opposite side. Similarly, the second fluid container 20 has a direct fluid flow connection to only one of the pressurized containers 26 that supplies the needles 7 with brine solution and does not fluidly flow to both sets of needles 7. (Col. 4, lines 49-60) (See also Figs. 1-3). Thus, Prosenbauer does not have a plurality of fluid reservoirs, all of which are in fluid flow communication with the heads and the needles therein as required.

By having fluid flow communication between all of the needles of the present invention and the fluid reservoirs the same needle can supply a different amount of brine depending on the desired application because it can receive brine from two different containers. By having this setup and knowing where the fat and lean parts of the meat are located, the correct desired amount of brine needed corresponding with the fat and lean elements can be supplied from multiple brine tanks, as not

every piece of meat that is injected with brine contains the same consistency. This is an advantage that Prosenbauer does not teach nor can perform and thus the present application is an improvement over the Prosenbauer reference. Consequently, each and every limitation of claim 4 is not met by the prior art reference and the anticipation rejection is considered overcome. Additionally, claim 5 depends on claim 4 and for at least this reason is also considered in allowable form.

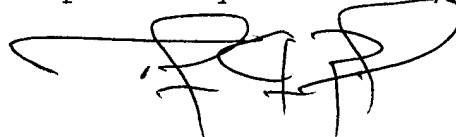
CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks and arguments, Applicant believes that claims 4 and 5 are in condition for allowance and Applicant respectfully requests allowance of such claims.

If any issues remain that may be expeditiously addressed in a telephone interview, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at 515/558-0200.

All fees or extensions of time believed to be due in connection with this response are attached hereto; however, consider this a request for any extension inadvertently omitted, and charge any additional fees to Deposit Account 50-2098.

Respectfully submitted,



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